
"Partnering to promote, protect and preserve health in our community."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

HEPATITIS A ALERT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Central District Health Department Asks Medical Providers to Consider Hepatitis A If
Patients Consumed Contaminated Berries

June 4, 2013

A frozen berry mix is being investigated as the apparent cause of hepatitis A in five western states. Although Idaho has not identified any cases so far, a number of Idaho stores *did* receive the product suspected as the source of infection. Idaho public health officials are recommending that providers:

- Offer hepatitis A vaccine to patients who consumed 'Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend' within the past two weeks as soon as possible;
- Remind patients to discard any remaining product from their freezers, even if some of the product has been eaten without anyone in their home becoming ill;
- Screen any ill persons who consumed 'Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend' for hepatitis A, if clinically indicated;
- Report any illnesses, including suspected cases of hepatitis A related to consumption of 'Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend' to your local public health district.

Hepatitis A vaccination can prevent illness if given within two weeks of exposure to the contaminated product. Patients who have been vaccinated against hepatitis A, or who have already had hepatitis A, are unlikely to get the infection.

Of the 19 outbreak-associated cases with information available:

- All people are ages 18 years or older, ranging from 25 – 71 years.
- Illness onset dates currently range from 4/29/2013 – 5/17/2013
- Nine (47%) ill people have been hospitalized.
- Eleven (65%) of 17 ill people interviewed reported eating 'Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend,' a frozen berry and pomegranate seed mix.
- Eleven persons who have provided purchase information reported purchasing this product from Costco; however, investigations are ongoing to determine if this product was also sold at other stores or venues.

For additional information call the Office of Communicable Disease Control at 327-8625.

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